

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

4 AUGUST 1982

Lebanon

Military Situation -- The IDF has begun an all-out offensive against west Beirut aimed at splitting the area in two, Monte Carlo radio reported early on 4 August. The Israelis have advanced on three axes, according to Beirut radio: westward from the museum area; southward from the port; and northward in the Al-Awza'i area, where a landing operation took place. Citing foreign journalists, Monte Carlo radio said that after 5 and 1/2 hours of fighting the Israelis were still in isolated areas near the racetrack and the museum and had not penetrated the Al-Barbir quarter. Meanwhile, the IDF spokesman denied that the Israelis are trying to split west Beirut in two and stressed that the current attacks do not constitute a full-scale invasion of west Beirut, Jerusalem radio reported. The IDF is tightening the siege of Beirut and strengthening its positions following repeated violations of the cease-fire by the "terrorists" in which 20 Israeli soldiers were wounded on 3 August, he said. Nevertheless, the radio reported that after massive artillery fire at "terrorist" targets, Israeli tanks and infantry were surrounding Al-Awza'i and threatening Burj al-Barajinah. Meanwhile, the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio claimed that the Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces and the Syrian units in west Beirut have repulsed all Israeli attempts to advance, destroying six tanks in the museum area, three more in the Al-Ghazzar area and thwarting a seaborne landing on the military beach. The previous day, the radio reported that the joint forces foiled an Israeli advance toward Al-Awza'i, destroying two tanks.

As a result of the latest fighting, hundreds of people have been killed or wounded in all parts of Beirut, Beirut radio said. The previous day, AFP noted a Lebanese police report that 963 Lebanese and Palestinians were killed in Lebanon and another 2,013 were wounded throughout July. Real casualties are greater because of the large number of bodies still buried amid rubble and because Israeli and Syrian military casualties are not included in this estimate, the report said. Meanwhile, Jerusalem radio said that up to 2 August the IDF captured 7,400 "terrorists" during the "Peace for Galilee" Operation.

PLO on U.S. Plan, Proposals -- The Lebanese-Palestinian military committee held a joint meeting with Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan to discuss the Palestinian plan for withdrawal from Beirut, which was drawn up after the PLO leaders had received the U.S. plan, Beirut radio reported. Afterward, Al-Wazzan met with Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis, Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus and U.S. envoy Philip Habib. According to the radio, government sources said progress was achieved on the following points agreed on by the PLO to withdraw by land to Damascus, to abandon the demand to disengage its forces with the Israeli army, using an international force after Israeli withdrawal; to withdraw with only personal weapons; to withdraw over a 21-day period; and to demand a U.S. guarantee of safe passage out of Beirut. Further discussion is required on the timing of the withdrawal of the PLO leadership and its fighters, and the arrival of the international force. The PLO wanted the force to arrive as its fighters began to depart, or said it would agree to a country such as France deploying a force prior to withdrawal, the radio added. Contacts continued for the success of these proposals and Habib told former Lebanese Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam that the PLO will definitely be received by some Arab countries.

Meanwhile, Monte Carlo radio cited sources who said that within 2 days Syria will announce it will accept PLO leaders and fighters. In another report, an official Egyptian source cited by MENA said that remarks by Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf in a Kuwaiti newspaper interview on ways Arabs can respond to the Lebanon crisis and the United States were "impractical" and "could not be taken seriously." In an address on 4 August carried by the Voice of Palestine, Khalaf urged fighters in Lebanon to continue their struggle until victory. In a commentary broadcast by the radio, Lebanese Front Military Commander Bashir al-Jumayyil was criticized for not taking a position against the Israeli "goal" of settling the Palestinians in Lebanon.

Israeli Position -- The IDF has not entered west Beirut but has tightened the ring around the PLO, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told his U.S. counterpart George Shultz in Washington, Jerusalem radio reported early on 4 August. Earlier, in an interview with Jerusalem television, Shamir stressed the need to end the Beirut problem as soon as possible, preferably through political means. Meanwhile, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon told IDF commanders in Beirut that Israel rejects U.S. envoy Habib's proposal that a multinational force enter Beirut after a first group of PLO fighters leaves the city, IDF radio reported. Sharon reaffirmed Israel's opposition to the entry of an international force before the "terrorists" leave the city, the radio noted. According to Jerusalem radio, Israeli officials were surprised by the UN secretary general's instructions that UN observers should enter Beirut without waiting for Israel's agreement.

'Ali Comments -- Egypt could not maintain normal diplomatic relations with Israel if it took over Beirut, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said in an interview with LE MONDE reported by AFP. He said the Lebanese crisis headed the agenda in talks with French President Francois Mitterrand.

Yemeni Leaders' Statement, Talks on Lebanon -- The presidents of the Yemen Arab Republic and PDRY held talks in Jidda with Saudi King Fahd on 3 August, SPA reported. SPA noted that a joint press statement after the meeting condemned the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and called for Arab solidarity in the face of Israeli "aggression." Later, the Yemeni presidents held talks in Damascus with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to discuss the Lebanon situation, Dasmascus radio reported.

Iran-Iraq War

Military Situation -- An Iranian Armed Forces communique carried by Tehran radio claimed that the Iraqis launched a counteroffensive on one of the Ramadan Operation fronts, but the Iraqi attack was repulsed. The Iranian Ground Forces commander said so much Iraqi equipment has been captured that the revolution guards formed complete armored units with Iraqi equipment, Tehran radio reported citing IRNA. The commander asserted that the war could have been over if Iran had just wanted to throw Iraq out of Iranian territory, but he said Iranian war strategy is based on "prophet-like policies" to put the "oppressor" in his place and restore Iran's rights.

An Iraqi military communique carried by Baghdad radio claimed that 187 Iranians were killed on operational fronts.

Iraq on Reparations -- In a statement reported by INA, an official Iraqi spokesman described the Iranian demand for war reparations as a "false, silly pretext" to continue the war against Iraq. He said Iran should accept international arbitration to end the war and to decide on reparations.

Baghdad Explosion Developments -- INA reported that the bomb which exploded in front of the Planning Ministry in Baghdad on 1 August resulted in 20 killed and 138 wounded. An Iraqi religious opposition group called the Iraqi Mujahidin Movement, whose members are followers of an Iraqi Shi'ite leader living in Iran, claimed responsibility for the explosion, AFP reported.

Libya

In a banquet speech in honor of Mozambique President Samora Machel on 2 August in Tripoli, Libyan leader Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi accused the United States of bribing some African leaders to boycott the African summit in Tripoli, JANA reported. He claimed he had documented proof of this and if the documents are released they would create a "big scandal."

FBIS**DAILY REPORT**
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KESHTMAND SPEECH AT 2 AUG GOVERNMENT SESSION

LDO3748 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 2 Aug 82

[Speech by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, at 2 August Council of Ministers session in Kabul -- recorded]

[Summary] Esteemed comrades: The Ninth PDPA Central Committee Plenum comprehensively discussed the important duty of our party under the present conditions of our society to strengthen political work among the people's masses. The report presented by Babrak Karmal to the plenum is of great importance and it adopted specific guidelines as an important plenum document for the organizations and party and government authorities and for all members of the party, social organizations and state officials. The DRA Government led by the PDPA, will be guided by the topics set out at the plenum and its resolution concerning its duties. The question of attracting the masses and support for the party in power depends mostly on the daily work of the government organs.

"The government is obligated to be consistently at the service of the people and to deal with the masses legally, lawfully and democratically and to demonstrate this in its daily activity. The observance of revolutionary legality by the state organs, including the state information services, sarandoy, the prosecutor's offices and various departments and institutions of the government who are permanently in contact with the masses, helps to further gain the confidence and trust of the people's masses in the party, the government and the revolution. Of course, maintaining revolutionary decisiveness promptly and when necessary is not only not contrary to revolutionary legality, it is implied by it."

The DRA Government makes every effort to consolidate all its efforts within the framework of democratic legality. All laws, decrees, regulations and important legal bills to date have been based on the DRA Basic Principles. In today's Council of Ministers session, too, we will discuss a number of such regulations in accordance with the requirements of work and the needs of society and the times. They will be submitted to the Revolutionary Council Presidium for final approval. Consolidation of the sovereignty and state and people's power in the regions and meeting the daily demands of the people are the principal tasks among the people's masses. Satisfying the urgent needs of the people and working to maintain their welfare will help the people to realize the benefits of the revolution and to rally around it further. Therefore, the DRA Council of Ministers is making efforts to resolve the country's major economic issues and to raise the level of agricultural and industrial production.

In addition to exploiting our own potential and resources, the economic aid of the socialist countries, in particular the Soviet Union, has an important role in improving the living conditions of our people. The all-round aid of the USSR is a reliable foundation for the future socioeconomic prosperity of our country. The government pays serious attention to the planned socioeconomic development of the country. Thus, at today's session of the Council of Ministers the implementation of the government plan and budget during the first quarter of the year will be discussed. In the course of implementing the land and water reform in the country we should do political work among the peasants and expose the subversive activities of the counterrevolutionaries who are directly opposed to the interests of the peasants, and involve the efforts of the people in solving complicated social problems. It is the permanent duty of the DRA Government to satisfy the people's basic needs and to help them further organize their daily lives. This is the way to gain the confidence of the masses.

"Large amounts of goods-in-grant have been distributed to the needy in various parts of the country. They include large-scale aid from the Soviet Union, which has donated goods worth 100 million rubles to the DRA, much of which have been freely distributed to the needy. And we recall that with gratitude."

The Council of Ministers recently adopted necessary measures to provide enough basic goods and to consolidate the prices of foodstuffs in the country. The government now subsidizes some major consumer goods such as sugar, oil and others at great cost for the benefit of the people's masses. One of our other duties is to eliminate illiteracy. The Ministry of Education and Training will take necessary measures to strengthen political work, to improve the system of education in the country among the masses and to train youths with a revolutionary world outlook, lofty political and (?social) awareness and with patriotic spirit and service to the toilers.

"Comrades, one of the important factors in befriending the masses is the national question. Principled treatment of this matter [words indistinct] creates new, just and equal relations among the nationalities, tribes and ethnic groups of our country, Afghanistan, and renders sincere service on the part of the state organs."

The government must take necessary measures in the economic and social areas in regard to national questions as directed by the resolution of the Ninth PDPA Central Committee Plenum. It will provide, without prejudice, foodstuffs, clothing and medicine to those regions which are in need of help and help the people reconstruct roads, hospitals, schools, mosques and other amenities.

"Babrak Karmal specified the tasks of the party and state organs in connection with the national question in his statement to the Ninth PDPA Central Committee Plenum; he said in part that a revolutionary party and government believes in the principle that all the nationalities, tribes and ethnic groups of Afghanistan are equal in every way, as well as regards access to economic, social and moral development and utilizing the gains of the April Revolution. But before everything else we ought to ensure that the specific essence and contents of our national policy are correctly understood by the people. To do this we must make effective use of the press, radio, television, propaganda leaflets and other means through the representatives of the people, nationalities, tribes and ethnic groups. The leaders, elders of the tribes, ulema and religious leaders, teachers and other experienced people should be given great importance. The government assigns the state organs and the local organs of state power, alongside the party organs and the organs of the National Fatherland Front and other social organizations, to work and act consistently in implementing this instruction of the party Central Committee.

"In connection with the importance of the country's mass media, the fruitful and great assistance of the Soviet Union in this area must be recalled and emphasis must be placed on the effective and maximum use of the machinery and equipment put at the disposal of the DRA by the Soviet Union. In implementing the progressive and popular policy of our revolutionary state and party, the progressive peace-seeking foreign policy of the DRA must be explained and propagated via the mass media. The people ought to know clearly that the peace-loving policy of the Soviet Union, supported by peace-loving forces, is the guarantor of world peace. The Soviet peace proposals and initiative are a source of inspiration and [word indistinct] for all progressive forces in their peaceful work and (?foils) the warmongering conspiracies of imperialism. The internationalist foreign policy of the Soviet Union toward Afghanistan and its political, moral and material support are consolidating the pillars of revolution, sovereignty and independence of our country and are maintaining freedom and tranquillity for our people.

"The broad masses of our people must also realize that the aggressive and criminal policy of international imperialism, primarily U.S. imperialism in collusion with Chinese hegemonism, is hostile to peace, progress, freedom, humanity and the security of the peoples of the world."

(?Pursuing) this aggressive imperialist policy with its reactionary collaborators, the criminal rebels continue their subversive activities in our country and the intervention of imperialism and reaction in the domestic affairs of our country is continuing unabated.

"Comrades, our people need peace and security in the country for healthy and reliable socioeconomic development and for creating a new life. The April Revolution has (?provided) extensive opportunities for implementing economic development (?plans) and for improving the living conditions of our people. It is necessary to maintain peaceful conditions for the work and (?life) of the people. In order to create such conditions it is necessary to struggle to eliminate completely the mercenary bands of rebels infiltrated from abroad.

"To accomplish this task and to defend the revolution is not a duty which has been laid only on the shoulders of the PDPA or a certain group of the people of our country. All present and future generations of all the people of Afghanistan and all the tribes and ethnic groups in the country are (?benefitting) from the revolution and its fruits. As Babrak Karmal said in his report to the Ninth PDPA Central Committee Plenum, the noble essence of the revolution belongs equally to all. This (?symbol) of equality and the equality of rights not only has been officially announced by the revolutionary government and state but it has also been confidently implemented through the laws regulating the practical activity of the party and government.

"Therefore, it is the duty of all workers and patriots of the country to defend the revolution and its gains. Of course, this honorable patriotic duty is carried out under the leadership of the PDPA, as the political vanguard of the toilers of Afghanistan.

"The DRA Armed Forces are playing a decisive role in crushing the counterrevolutionaries. Joining the ranks of the armed forces is a proud duty and is [words indistinct] in defending the revolution, the national sovereignty of the country freedom and the future prosperity of the people.

"In his report to the plenum, Comrade Karmal said in this regard that we ought to intensify blows at the enemies; the successes gained ought to be consolidated and extended and must be made decisive and irreversible. All this is directly and insolubly linked with the further strengthening of our armed forces and maintaining and improving them from the point of view of providing suitable individual training and enhancing (?party) moral and political awareness of the troops, NCO's and officers. Thus the DRA Government has taken necessary measures for further strengthening the country's armed forces and further filling their ranks. And these measures will be put into practice.

"Comrades, it was stated in the plenum report that the tried and tested method of influence on the masses is to talk, meet [words indistinct] and direct word [words indistinct] of the party with them. If party members have other duties and responsibilities, they are still obliged to maintain direct contact with the masses, meet them, talk to them and convey the criticism of the party to them. Practical experience has always shown the effectiveness of this method. [Words indistinct] previously, according to the instruction of Comrade Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and chairman of the DRA Revolutionary Council, a plan has been prepared by the Council of Ministers by which ministers, deputy ministers and heads of department, enterprises and the main state organs would travel to the (?capital), provinces and regions of the country. [Words indistinct] would be obliged to travel to provinces and some districts. The governors of provinces, districts and subdistricts should go to the villages and regions of the country.

"The purpose of these trips, in addition to inspecting departments and enterprises and evaluating their work, is to maintain contact with the masses, talk to them. Tend to their complaints and demands and answer their questions. Those officials, during the meetings with the people and [words indistinct], should agree to carry out any possible beneficiary works within their authority, and later they should fulfill their pledge."

"According to the duties specified in the PDPA action program to ensure that the words of the party and government reach the ears of the toiling masses, and for the implementation of the resolutions of the Ninth PDPA Central Committee Plenum, and in accordance with the resolutions of the PDPA Central Committee Secretariat, a specific radio and television program has been prepared for each minister, so that people can become familiar with the social, economic and cultural plans of the party and government and with the tasks which have already been accomplished. According to this program, each member of the Council of Ministers will deliver speeches on radio and television concerning the duties and affairs of his ministry and the texts of these speeches will be published in the newspapers and journals.

"Comrades, in the documents of the Ninth PDPA Central Committee Plenum, important and specific duties have been allotted to the Council of Ministers, all ministries, state organs and departments. These duties should be performed properly and with merit in addition to other day-to-day duties. In these matters, any kind of carelessness and inattention will not go unquestioned. Each of the ministries and governmental departments are obliged to specify their duties according to the plenum report and resolution and should take immediate steps to carry them out. Thus the Council of Ministers will be able to accomplish completely and consistently its duties as specified by the plenum.

"Forward to new victories and to the implementation of the resolutions of the PDPA Central Committee Plenum!" [applause]

AFP ON NEW AMENDMENTS TO CONSCRIPTION LAW

BK031539 Hong Kong AFP in English 1352 GMT 3 Aug 82

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Text] New Delhi, Aug. 3 (AFP) -- Afghan Army patrols have descended on the capital Kabul rounding up all men of military age for enlistment in the guerrilla war against Moslem insurgents opposed to the Soviet-backed government of Babrak Karmal.

Diplomatic sources said here today the new mobilization drive preceded and followed the toughest military enlistment decree yet issued by the Karmal government.

The decree, announced last night by Radio Kabul, makes military service compulsory for all men up to the age of 35. It also increases the conscription period from two to three years.

Diplomats who monitor developments in the embattled country said the enlistment drives also followed a propaganda campaign in the state-controlled news media saying workers in the factories and members of the Kabul municipal corporation were volunteering to join the army to counter the "anti-revolutionaries."

The army groups, armed with the new decree, were making indiscriminate arrests of people resisting the draft, diplomats said.

A young boy, who tried to avoid a military patrol in the Wazir-Akbar Khan District of the city, was shot in the back by a patrol. In another incident, a young man who resisted drafting was severely beaten up before being dumped in a truck.

The decree further stipulates that reservists under 39 years of age also will be called up for two years' military service. Similarly, those who were discharged before 1978 -- the year the first Marxist coup in Afghanistan -- and who are under 36 years old will be drafted for another two years.

Yesterday's decree climaxed the efforts of the Afghan Government to strengthen the country's armed forces which have depleted considerably from desertion to the ranks of the Moslem insurgents, diplomatic area experts said.

According to official Afghan publications, the strength of the armed forces before the Marxist coup stood at 110,000 men, with the infantry accounting for 100,000 and the rest made up by the air force.

Since then there have been several cases when soldiers defected en bloc to the insurgents. The defections reached an alarming proportion after the Soviet armed intervention in December 1979.

According to diplomats, the total fighting strength of the Afghan Armed Forces was currently around 30,000 to 48,000 men.

Meanwhile, diplomats here said that the insurgents had succeeded in forcing the withdrawal of Soviet-backed government troops from parts of the Paghman area, about 20 kms (12 miles) northwest of Kabul.

Paghman -- a former royal summer resort of the Afghan kings -- was the scene of fierce fighting between the government troops and insurgents in recent months.

Diplomats said rebels entrenched in the Paghman mountains had received new supplies of arms and were planning a counterattack on government strongholds. There was, however, no independent confirmation of this.

They reported heavy fighting in the Farah and Lowgar Provinces. In the Lowgar Province, bordering Kabul, the Soviet-Afghan forces razed many areas apparently with air and ground armoured attacks. There were reports of many casualties, the diplomats said without giving figures.

Diplomats said in the Qandahar city (Qandahar Province borders the Soviet Union) there was no government administration. The only checkpoint on the strategic Kabul-Qandahar road was manned by insurgents. There was, however, no independent confirmation of this either.

On July 26, a Soviet Air Force transport aircraft crashed near the Baghran military air base, north of Kabul. Though insurgents claimed responsibility for the downing of the aircraft, diplomats quoting well-informed sources said it might have resulted from a technical failure.

They said they had been told by a well-informed source that Lieutenant General Gol Aqa, chief of the Political Department of the Afghan Armed Forces, had been sacked.

The diplomats said they could not independently confirm the reports, but said if the reports were correct it could mean that the Soviets were determined to put an end to faction fighting between the Parchamites and the Khalqs -- the two factions of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA).

MUJAHIDIN DESTROY GOVERNMENT ARMS CACHE

GF021456 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 31 Jul 82 p 1

[Text] London, 30 Jul (AAP) -- The mujahidin have completely destroyed a huge arms cache near Khavajah Rawash airfield and caused the loss of millions of rupees worth of government arms. The explosions were heard several miles away and smoke clouds and flames were seen from as far away as [word indistinct]. Soon after the incident the Karmal government increased the duration of curfew by two hours in several cities in Afghanistan. The cities include Mazar-e Sharif, Ghazni and Jalalabad.

Meanwhile, reports received from Zabol indicate that owing to differences between the Parcham and Khalq factions of the communists, two persons are claiming to have been appointed as governor of Zabol at the same time, which has created difficulties for the provincial administration.

SPOKESMAN DENIES AIDING ANTI-INDIA MIZOS

BK301227 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1205 GMT 30 Jul 82

[Text] A spokesman of the Foreign Office has expressed surprise over a statement reportedly made by Indian External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao in reply to a question in the Indian Lok Sabha yesterday to the effect that the Indian Government has reason to believe that the elements of the Mizo National Front have been operating from the Chittagong hill tracts area of Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh spokesman categorically denied this contention and stated that the Bangladesh Government has repeatedly assured the Indian Government that it would not allow its territory to be used for hostile activity against the Indian Government.

INDIAN ALLEGATIONS OF DISCRIMINATION PROTESTED

BK311454 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1205 GMT 31 Jul 82

[Text] Bangladesh has categorically rejected as motivated, mischievous and totally baseless allegations being made in certain sections of the Indian media and (?projected) in a statement reportedly made in the Rajya Sabha on Monday last [26 July] by Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandari, a member of the ruling party from Maharashtra, to the effect that laws enforced in Bangladesh governing enemy or vested property are being executed by the present government with discriminatory intent against the minority Hindu community in Bangladesh.

A Foreign Office spokesman in Dacca today expressed deep concern and surprise not only on the contents of such allegation, which has been made without any effort to ascertain or verify facts, but also the timing, when both countries have been actively engaged in creating a friendly climate conducive to improving their bilateral relations.

The spokesman pointed out that the facts of the matter clearly belie the calculated attempt to obstruct good-neighborly relations and to interfere in the purely domestic affairs of a friendly neighboring state while attempting to create dissension of a communal nature.

He stated that the law governing treatment of vested and enemy properties has been enforced for the last 17 years and has been executed by the successive governments since 1965, including the Bangladesh government-in-exile established during the war of independence and by the first Bangladesh Government. The de facto Government of Bangladesh sitting at Mujibnagar to its proclamation of independence declared that all laws which were in force in the erstwhile East Pakistan continued to be the laws of Bangladesh. In 1972, by President's Order No 29 of 1972, the Government of Bangladesh declared that all properties vested or managed by any board constituted by or under any law of the former Government of Pakistan were deemed to have been vested in the Government of Bangladesh on and from 26 March 1971.

The spokesman pointed out that the present government came into power on 24 March this year and orders promulgated by them in April this year contained nothing new in respect of vested property but only executed the law which has been in existence over the last 17 years. He stated that the martial law regulation has (?overall) application and is applied to all citizens of Bangladesh irrespective of religion. The legal position, therefore, is quite clear and there is no question of discrimination against any person or minority group within the country.

The spokesman expressed shock at the inference that the martial law regulation is discriminatory with regard to the minority community in Bangladesh, for the record of communal harmony is one which the government feels has undoubtedly set an example in the region.

The spokesman further stated that the reference to the present government's well-intended order is not only a gross distortion of fact but is an undisguised attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of a sovereign state. In this context the spokesman stated that the conclusions arrived at regarding the fear and widespread exodus are both malicious and unfounded. The Government of Bangladesh is deeply disturbed by the fact that false allegations had accompanied similar statements regarding the Mizos, South Talpatty and bases in St Martine Island in quick and close succession and sincerely hoped that there will be an immediate end to such references in the interest of good and friendly relations which both countries consider vitally necessary.

IRAQI STATE FOREIGN MINISTER PAYS 2-DAY VISIT

Calls on Ershad

BK011720 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 1 Aug 82

[Text] The visiting Iraqi state minister for foreign affairs, 'Abd al-Hamid 'Alwan, called on Chief Martial Law Administrator [CMLA] Lt Gen H.M. Ershad in Dacca this evening and handed him a special message from President Saddam Husayn. The Iraqi minister stayed with the CMLA for some time. Foreign Minister A.R. Shamsul Doha was also present during the meeting.

Departure Statement

BK031254 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1205 GMT 3 Aug 82

[Text] Iraqi State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hamid 'Alwan expressed his (?full) satisfaction over his talks with Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt Gen H.M. Ershad, President Justice Ahsanuddin Chowdhury and Foreign Minister A.R. Shamsul Doha.

In a statement at the Zia International Airport today before his departure for Baghdad at the end of his 2-day visit to Bangladesh, the Iraqi minister said Iraq is looking forward to better opportunity for strengthening bilateral relations with Bangladesh.

The Iraqi minister was seen off at the airport by the foreign minister, the foreign secretary and other high officials.

ERSHAD APPOINTS NEW HOME AFFAIRS MINISTER

BK260317 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] The chief martial law administrator has appointed Maj Gen Mohabbat Jan Chowdhury a member of his Council of Ministers. He has been given the portfolio of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

BRIEFS

OPEC LOAN AGREEMENT -- Bangladesh has signed an agreement with the OPEC Fund for International Development for a loan of \$30 million. The loan will be utilized for the Ashuganj thermal power project which is co-financed by the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and the International Development Bank. [Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 18 Jul 82 BK]

VENKATARAMAN ON PAKISTAN'S MILITARY THREAT

BK031015 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Aug 82

[Text] Adequate measures have been taken by the government to meet any external threat. All developments threatening our security have been monitored for initiating appropriate measures to ensure full defense preparedness.

Defense Minister R. Venkataraman told the Rajya Sabha that government has no positive information as to whether Pakistan is doing anything in furtherance of its nuclear capability. It is also not possible to say whether Pakistan is going to explode an atomic bomb.

Venkataraman pointed out that the accumulation of sophisticated weapons by Pakistan poses a threat to our security. This point has been made known by India to several countries, including the United States.

DRAFT PROTOCOL ON DETAINEES GIVEN TO PAKISTAN

BK311610 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Jul 82

[Text] India today handed over to Pakistan a draft protocol on reciprocal exchange of information on nationals of one country arrested, detained or imprisoned in the other. The draft was sent to the Pakistan Embassy in New Delhi. It also contains proposals for consular access and modalities of release and repatriation of such nationals.

A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry told newsmen in New Delhi that India had raised this issue with Pakistan in October last year. It also figured during the talks with then Pakistani Foreign Minister Agha Shahi, who visited Delhi in January. The draft has now been sent after receipt of a positive response from Islamabad recently.

AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE SHARMA LEAVES FOR PAKISTAN

BK311607 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Jul 82

[Text] India's Ambassador-Designate to Pakistan K.D. Sharma left New Delhi for Islamabad today to take up his new assignment. Sharma was formerly the Indian high commissioner to Australia.

Pakistan's Ambassador-Designate to India Riaz Piracha is expected to present his credentials to the president on Tuesday [3 August].

NEW PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

BK030815 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 3 Aug 82

[Text] New Ambassador of Pakistan Riaz Piracha presented his credentials to President Zail Singh at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] in New Delhi this morning. Welcoming the new ambassador, the president reiterated India's well-known commitment to the territorial integrity, stability and sovereignty of Pakistan and stressed that good-neighborly relations between the two countries are in our common interest and in the interest of the region as a whole.

DELHI REPORTS TALKS WITH PAKISTAN TO RESUME

BK311612 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Jul 82

[Text] The official-level talks between India and Pakistan on bilateral matters will be resumed on the 11th of next month in Islamabad.

Foreign Secretary M.K. Rasgotra is scheduled to go to Pakistan on the 7th for a meeting of foreign secretaries of South Asian countries. Later, he will have talks with the Pakistani foreign minister. The 2-day talks are a followup of those held earlier in New Delhi.

EXPRESS CALLS FOR DEMOCRATIC RULE IN PAKISTAN

BK021500 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 29 Jul 82 p 6

[Editorial: "Zia's Dilemma"]

[Text] The reported advice of the Pakistan council of Islamic ideology against holding elections on non-party lines shows that even fundamentalist conscience-keepers can be realists up to a point. The council, which is supposed to guide the Pakistan polity along the Islamic path, has said that perpetuation of the ban on parties would bring disrepute to Pakistan. That the council's own ideas on the political system suitable for the country hardly fit in with democratic concepts recognised elsewhere is another matter. For instance, it suggests that only parties with a firm faith in the Islamic way of life and ideology be allowed to function. Further, it is against the formation of any party-based government; it insists on a coalition.

Curious as these ideas are, it is noteworthy that even a body by no means unfriendly to the regime should plead for restoration of representative government in some form. This evidently is not what President Zia had expected. Hence his reported rejection of the advice. He has put the ball back in the council's court by asking for a more "practicable suggestion".

As it happens, the military regime is under pressure from other sides also. Prof Chafaor Ahmed, leader of the defunct Jami'at-e Islami, recently rapped the government for its failure to redeem the promise of transferring power to the elected representatives of the people. And now a front of regional groups has called for an interim government formed by political leaders to pave the way for democratic rule, with the president and chief martial law administrator meanwhile remaining in the saddle. Some retired generals have also spoken against indefinite continuation of army rule.

All this accentuates President Zia's dilemma. If ever he is to make good his promise, however, the time to do so, or at least to make a beginning, is now. He is on a strong wicket internally as well as externally. The economy is in fairly good shape and the administration is in control of the situation even in volatile regions like Baluchistan. Outside, the regime has won appreciation by projecting a sober and pragmatic line, especially in regard to India, Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. Logically, the same approach should prevail in internal policies, too.

COMMERCE DEPUTY CALLS USSR TRADE FAVORABLE

BK031200 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 3 Aug 82

[Text] The Rajya Sabha was told today that India's trade with the Soviet Union is favorable. During 1980, exports to that country were worth 9,900 million rupees as against imports of over 9,450 million rupees. During 1981 also, exports exceeded imports by 3,240 million [figure as heard] rupees. Giving this information, Deputy Commerce Minister P.A. Sangma said the Soviet Union is the largest trading partner of India.

NEPALKING BIRENDRA RETURNS FROM VISIT TO CHINA

BK031550 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 3 Aug 82

[Excerpt] Their majesties the king and queen returned home this afternoon after a week-long friendly visit to the Gansu Province and the Tibet Autonomous Region of China.

Beijing Reports

For Beijing coverage of King Birendra's visit, beginning 27 July, to Gansu Province and Xizang (Tibet) Autonomous Region, including reports on his talks with Premier Zhao Ziyang and a banquet feted by Zhao, see the South Asia section of the 28 July issue and subsequent issues of the China DAILY REPORT.

SRI LANKAHAMEED, IRANIAN DELEGATION DISCUSS NONALIGNED

BK031248 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Aug 82

[Text] The visiting five-member Iranian delegation met Minister of Foreign Affairs Shahul Hameed in Colombo yesterday for talks on further strengthening the friendly relations between the two countries. Leader of the delegation, Ayatollah (Ibrahim Amini) said that Iran was particularly anxious to encourage cooperation in the economic sphere among Third World countries. The Iranian delegation explained their position to the minister on the venue of the nonaligned summit.

Hameed said that the developments in the international field made it imperative that heads of state of nonaligned countries meet to discuss some of the major economic and political issues concerning Third World countries. He stressed that every endeavor should be made to ensure the continuity of nonaligned summits which had been a regular feature since 1970.

Hameed noted that in fairness to the membership of the movement he would make it clear that the nonaligned countries who propose to attend the Baghdad summit should not be considered as supporting Iraq. In the same way, those who are seeking a change of venue or postponement of the summit should not be considered as supporting Iran.

BRIEFS

AID FOR HYDROPOWER STATION -- Electricity for the Colombo area will be transmitted from the hydropower station to be completed in the Mahaweli basin between 1984 and 1987. The transmission line will be partly financed by a credit of \$36 million from the International Development Association [IDA]. IDA will also help finance the provision of power transformers and related equipment and consultancy services. The OPEC Fund will lend \$11 million to help finance about 24 percent of the estimated foreign exchange cost of \$47 million. The Ceylon Electricity Board will provide the balance of just over \$76 million needed for the project. The World Bank and IDA have made six previous loans and credits to Sri Lanka for power generation and transmission totalling about \$79 million. [Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Jul 82 BK]

IRAQI GROUP THREATENS ACTION AGAINST SUMMIT

LD040940 Tehran IRNA in English 0906 GMT 4 Aug 82

[Text] Tehran, Aug 3 IRNA -- An official of the Iraqi Mujahidin Movement here threatened today that if the heads of the nonaligned countries participated in the upcoming nonaligned summit conference (due to be held in Baghdad in September) "we would act against their lives."

Speaking in an interview with IRNA here, the Iraqi mujahidin official further disclosed new details on the recent bomb blast at the building of the Iraqi Interior and Planning Ministry in Baghdad (on Sunday).

He said the bombing was engineered by 'Abu Balal', a member of the movement who was a follower of Imam Khomeyni's line. The official of the Iraqi Mujahidin Movement added that Abu Balal was martyred after he drove a car carrying 250 kgs of TNT explosives into the building of the Iraqi Ministry of Interior and Planning.

He said the objective behind the bombing was to indicate that Baghdad was not a secure place for the upcoming non-aligned summit conference and thus to prevent the summit from being held there. It was also to prove that the Iraqi mujahidin were on the alert against the Zionist-Ba'thist regime of Saddam, added the official.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,005

LD031740 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Aug 82

[Communique No 1,005 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Dear compatriots, the battles and self-sacrifices of the combatants of Islam and the valiant warriors of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the past 24 hours are hereby brought to your attention:

During the past 24 hours, fighting and exchange of fire continued in the Ramadan Operation sectors. On one of the fronts of the operational sector, the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries launched a counteroffensive at 1610 yesterday, but the victorious and powerful combatants of Islam crushed this last-ditch move of the enemy right at the start of the operations and repulsed the enemy counteroffensive, inflicting considerable loss and damages on the Saddamist forces. The battle and clashes ended at 1615.

On the southern fronts, the combatants of Islam bravely defended their defensive positions and, consolidating these positions, returned the fire of the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries; by silencing the fire of the aggressive Ba'thists, they did not give the enemy any chance to move or change positions. The combatants of Islam also inflicted some loss and damages on the Iraqi forces.

During exchanges of fire in the Abadan sector, the brave warriors of the gendarmerie set fire to positions and trenches of the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries, silenced their fire and inflicted some losses and damage on the Saddamist forces. These warriors also continued firing on the Al-Faw-Basra supply axis and prevented enemy movement along this axis.

The city of Abadan came under the artillery fire of the criminal Saddamist mercenaries yesterday. As a result, one house was destroyed and several of our dear compatriots in the region of Abadan were wounded.

The sporadic exchange of fire on western fronts of the country continued yesterday and, as on previous days, the fire was most intense in the Meymak region. The self-sacrificing combatants of the engineering department of the ground forces, in the Malekshahi and Chaghalvand sectors, are still busy collecting various types of mines planted by the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries and they are continuing their search.

In the Qasr-e Shirin region, the artillery fire of the combatants of the ground forces destroyed two trucks of the Saddamist forces and prevented the artillery fire of the Saddamist forces. On the Marivan and Paveh fronts, exchange of fire continued between the powerful forces of Islam and the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries.

Thanks to the timely fire of the air defense units in each border region, in the southern and western parts of the country, any aggression of the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries was repulsed and the enemy planes were forced to flee.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

SAYYAD SHIRAZI ON CAPTURED IRAQI WEAPONRY

LD031250 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Aug 82

[Text] IRNA reports that Colonel Sayyad Shirazi, the commander of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, participated in a gathering of combatants and warriors of Islam in the mosque of one of the operational headquarters of the southern fronts last night. At this gathering he made a speech and said: After 23 months of the imposed war and the victory of the Muslims over all political, economic and military conspiracies hatched by the superpowers, no oppressive power will in future even think of destroying the Islamic revolution. He added: We do not expect help from any of the superpowers because, during these 23 months of imposed war, we witnessed the blessing of God and the strong determination of our combatants who, despite a shortage of military equipment, defeated the enemy and now, after throwing the aggressor out of the country, will not leave the enemy alone until he receives his just punishment.

Colonel Sayyad Shirazi then referred to the recent operations of the forces of Islam, especially the importance of the Ramadan Operation, and said: All in all, in these operations the enemy became the military supply source of the forces of Islam, contrary to the expectations of the enemy's boss, the United States. So much so that the brothers in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps have formed complete armored units from the weapons and armor taken from the enemy. Today, the weapons and modern equipment of the enemy are being used against them.

At the end of his speech, he referred to the divine motive of the combatants of Islam in their battle against the Ba'thist Zionist forces of Saddam and said: If we wanted to fight the enemy within the geographical boundaries on the ground, having thrown the Saddamist mercenaries out of the occupied territories of the Islamic Republic of Iran our war would be finished today. But since our war strategy is based on the prophet-like policies of theocratic rule, we will continue our battle to put the oppressor in his place and restore our rights.

CABINET CONSIDERS ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM CHANGES

LD012252 Tehran IRNA in English 1919 GMT 1 Aug 82

[Text] Tehran, August 1 IRNA -- A plan to change the present administrative system of the government offices has been brought to the Cabinet by Mr. Davudi, deputy prime minister in charge of revolutionary organizations affairs.

Mr. Davudi told the Cabinet members that the plan was proposed in order to resolve complicated problems concerning the administration and he added that the overall transformation of the system should be considered. The deputy minister also said that practical and firm solutions had been provided for in the plan.

Meanwhile other top issues discussed during today's Cabinet meeting included a report on the latest developments in the battlefronts which was analysed by the Cabinet.

INTEREST EXPRESSED IN UNESCO PARTICIPATION

LN031252 Tehran IRNA in English 0950 GMT 3 Aug 82

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3 (IRNA) -- Iran is interested in participating in international organisations, like UNESCO, and while presenting its Islamic culture, it seeks to be informed about the realities of other nations, said Javad Mansuri, deputy foreign minister for cultural affairs, in his meeting with the secretary general of UNESCO, Amadou Mahtar M'bow, in Mexico, Friday morning.

In reply the UNESCO secretary general said that he was interested in Iran not only because of his position but as a person from the Third World and a Muslim. Mr. M'bow then referred to a report of his deputy concerning the deputy's visit to Iranian museums, handicraft industries, art galleries and historical monuments and called it very positive, saying the report indicated Iran's effort to protect its cultural heritage.

They also discussed mutual cooperation between Iran and UNESCO. The Iranian delegation stated that the major human problem in the world was man's carelessness towards spirituality and hoped that Iran would be able to introduce Islamic culture to the world via UNESCO.

Mr. M'bow said that UNESCO was an organisation where all beliefs and religions are represented and respected.

BRIEFS

TRADE WITH USSR -- According to IRNA, 61,696 tons of goods, including steel, wood, chemicals, uric acid and fertilizer, arrived in the country during the month ending 22 July via the Caspian Sea [from the USSR]. Twenty-three vessels were used in transporting the goods, which were unloaded at Bandar-e Anzali. [Excerpt] [Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 25 Jul 82 LD]

COMMERCIAL AGREEMENT WITH ITALY -- Tehran, July 25, IRNA -- Iran and Italy have entered into an agreement according to which Iran will be provided with meters for industrial and household natural gas consumption. According to the agreement, in addition to Italy's providing Iran with the needed number of meters, the Islamic Republic will be able to import the required technology for eventually manufacturing the meters domestically. The managing director of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC), Jamshid Sardari, said that the NIGC had signed an agreement with the Italian firm Novo Pignone which would provide the meters and within a year would prepare the export to Iran of the required technology for the manufacture of this product. The Italian company will ask no charge for the export of its technology to Iran, Sardari said. According to the contract, 150,000 meters will be provided per year. [Text] [Tehran IRNA in English 1941 GMT 25 Jul 82 LD]

SARCHESHMEH COPPER PRODUCTION -- Kerman, July 27, IRNA -- Since it began operation in late December 1981, the Sarcheshmeh copper complex in Iran's central province of Kerman has been able to produce some 4,000 tons of 98.4-percent-pure copper. Mr. Mehdi Hasanpur, the manger of the complex, while making this statement said that the copper kilns began operation in May of this year. Also during this period the amount of copper ore extraction was 2,478 million tons, and the amount of copper concentrate produced was 46. [Number indistinct] thousand tons and 17,428 tons of lime. Other side-products of the complex are molybdenum, silver, gold and nickel sulfite. [Excerpt] [Tehran IRNA in English 1925 GMT 27 Jul 82 LD]